

# U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



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## **“OPERATION FALCON III” FUELED BY ADAM WALSH ACT ROUNDS UP THOUSANDS OF FUGITIVES NATIONWIDE”**

**Columbus, Ohio** – Deputy United States Marshals teamed up with thousands of fellow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to conduct the largest ever round up of fugitive sex-offenders and wanted gang members. Dubbed “Operation FALCON III” (Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally), Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 10,773 felony fugitives. This number includes 1,659 sex offenders and 364 documented gang members.

**James M. Wahlrab**, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, headed the local task force for the district. “It is imperative that we continue to work together with our state and local counterparts to ensure that violent criminals and sexual predators are taken off the streets and kept off. With the help of the U.S. Attorney and the collaboration of partnering agencies, these arrests highlight our cooperation in the ongoing effort to establish safer communities for residents in Columbus and surrounding areas.”

Honing in on sexual predators and fugitive gang members, Operation FALCON III’s success comes on the heels of the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act,” which was signed into law by President Bush on July 27, 2006. The Act makes it a federal felony, punishable by up to ten years imprisonment, for convicted sex offenders who fail to register and who travel in interstate or foreign commerce. The U.S. Marshals Service was designated by the Act as the agency to lead the national effort to track down and arrest these fugitive felons.

U.S. Attorney **Gregory G. Lockhart** for the Southern District of Ohio, added, “As U.S. Attorney, our role is to ensure that people are called to justice for the crimes they have committed. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act and the results of Operation FALCON III will help us achieve that goal.”

In the Columbus area, Operation FALCON III participants cleared 83 active warrants and made 77 physical arrests. Some of the significant arrests included:

On 10/25/2006, members of the FALCON III task force went to the residence of Mary ROWLING to serve a warrant at 1074 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Columbus. As they approached the

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residence they noticed several cameras around the residence. After announcing their presence, task force members heard running noises inside the residence. Upon entry they located several weapons, including five handguns and large amounts of illegal narcotics. ROWLING was arrested and the other individuals in the household were turned over to the Columbus Police Department to face charges.

On 10/27/06, task force members arrived at 1330 Red Bridge Road, Peeble, Ohio, to serve a warrant on William Anderson MALEY. MALEY was wanted in Franklin County on 20 felony charges of pandering obscenity involving a minor, a second degree felony in Ohio. Upon entry MALEY was found in the bathroom with the barrel of a shotgun in his mouth. Officers convinced MALEY to lower the weapon to the floor and surrender. After taking MALEY into custody, officers located three shotguns, one assault rifle, and ammunition in the house. The Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Pike County Sheriff's Office were the arresting agencies and the suspect is being held at the Ross County Jail.

Clarence R. HARRIS had an outstanding warrant on an indictment in Franklin County charging him with three counts of rape, one count of gross sexual imposition of a minor, one count of distributing harmful materials to a minor, and one count of pandering obscenities to minors. On 10/22/06 task force members, along with the Martins Ferry Police Department arrested HARRIS at 705 Hickory Street, Martins Ferry, OH. HARRIS is currently in Belmont County waiting to be transferred to the Franklin County Jail.

The supporting and participating agencies in the Columbus area included:

**Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Ross County Sheriff's Office, Pike County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Police Department, Whitehall Police Department, Grove City Police Department, Reynoldsburg Police Department, Martins Ferry Police Department, St. Clairsville Police Department, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio State Adult Parole Authority, Ohio BCI & I, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.**

## **PHOTOS/VIDEO AVAILABLE**

The Marshals Service has photos of actual arrests during the Operation available to press at [www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3](http://www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3), as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15," describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the Operation are available to media at the site.